

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☐

Property Name: Mabel Brittingham House Inventory Number: S-274
Address: North side of L.Q. Powell Road, in Tulls Corner Vicinity Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Marion Zip Code: 21838 County: Somerset
USGS Quadrangle(s): Marion
Property Owner: Unknown Tax Account ID Number: Unknown
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): Unknown Tax Map Number: Unknown
Project: Proposed Tower Site: Marion, Somerset County, Maryland Agency: Maryland Dept. of Budget and Management
Agency Prepared By: A.D. Marble & Company
Preparer's Name: Stephanie Foell and Stacey Streett Date Prepared: 3/22/2005
Documentation is presented in: Proposed Tower Site: Marion, Somerset County, Maryland
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Architectural Description

Please refer to MIHP Form S-274 for previous survey information.

The Mabel Brittingham House (S-274) is located on the north side of L.Q. Powell Road near Tulls Corner. It was constructed circa 1905 and is a side-hall plan late-Victorian-era house with vernacular elements of the Queen Anne style. The two-and-one-half-story, irregular plan, frame house faces south. A prominent cross gable is located on the façade.

The house is supported by raised, brick piers. At the time of the current survey (2004), cladding consisted of original narrow, weatherboard siding and fishscale shingles, which are only found on the faces of the gable. The siding and shingles are consistent with the materials reported at the time of the former survey in 1987. However, the original single-pane and one-over-one, sash windows are now replaced by multi-pane, double-hung sash windows.

A full-width, one-story, shed-roof porch is located on the façade. It is supported by thin, Tuscan columns. The asymmetrical façade also contains an off-center entrance bay. A small, pediment is located on the porch roof above the entrance bay. Multi-pane, sash

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MHT Comments:

Andrew Lewis
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

4/7/05
Date

John Kuntz
Reviewer, National Register Program

4/7/05
Date

200500858

Windows, which were previously single-pane, flank the entrance door. Three multi-pane windows are located on the second story of the façade. Centered within the front gable of the upper half story is a tripartite window with diamond-patterned, colored-glass panes in the upper sash and a single-pane in the lower sash. Throughout the building, windows are topped with projecting cornice moldings.

The west elevation contains equally impressive architectural details. A three-bay projection extends from the building. This form is commonly found on Eastern Shore residence constructed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, although it is usually a feature on the façade. The projection is capped with a steeply pitched gable. Fish-scale shingles are located in the gable area, and decorative Victorian-era sawnwork is located in the apex of the gable and also directly beneath the gable. An entrance porch with a hipped roof is supported by the same slender Tuscan columns that are found on the façade.

The north (rear) elevation contains irregularly spaced six-over-six, replacement windows. A window with diamond-shaped panes is located in the gable area. The east elevation contains a single-story, shed-roof addition.

A steeply pitched roof covered with asphalt shingles tops the building, and twin, interior brick chimneys are located in the center and north side of the roof. Vergeboards adorned the cross gable on the façade, and a Victorian wooden spire punctuated the east end of the side gable during the 1987 survey, but these details are no longer extant.

The residence is surrounded by tall, mature trees and several evergreen and flowering shrubs.

Significance

Introduction

Marion, located in Somerset County, Maryland, is situated approximately six miles north of Crisfield. Marion is a small crossroads community that was established in the middle of the nineteenth century with the construction of the earliest residences. The town developed gradually throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Buildings more than 50 years of age in the Marion vicinity are generally in fair to poor condition. Many of the buildings in the commercial corridor have been altered, most substantially. The busy, four-lane Crisfield Highway (Route 413) bisects Marion and intrudes substantially on the historic character of the town, most notably on the commercial area.

Residential areas radiate out from the commercial area. The residences located closest to the commercial area are generally located along side streets and are closely spaced. However, moving outward from the commercial area, the residences are located on large parcels of land, many of which are actively cultivated. Primary crops include soybeans and corn. Modern poultry farming enterprises are also present.

The earliest buildings in Marion date to the middle of the nineteenth century. The majority of the buildings more than 50 years of age date from the early years of the twentieth century. However, numerous mobile homes and residences constructed within the last 30 years are located in the area.

The topography of Marion is generally flat with substantial stands of trees and forests as well as fields.

History of Marion

Marion is located in what was once a thriving agricultural region. Consequently, it grew into one of the larger villages within

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Somerset County during the second half of the nineteenth century. John C. Horsey donated a portion of his land for the railroad right-of-way, and in exchange he was allowed to name the resulting town after his daughter Marion. The village served the needs of the surrounding agricultural community. The 1877 Hopkins Atlas shows two carpenter shops, two blacksmiths, and two wagon shops in the town. A general store was located in Marion, and several churches were also established there. Approximately ten residences were located in Marion at this time. Later development was focused on areas south and east of the village.

Strawberries were one of the most important crops grown in Marion as well as other parts of Somerset County. An auction to establish the best possible market prices for strawberries was initiated in Marion in 1911. The auction was soon moved to the neighboring town of Princess Anne. Marion's strawberry crop was sent by rail car to urban markets, including Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. By the mid 1920s, many farmers had started to raise broiler chickens, and the long chicken houses became a common site in Marion and surrounding areas. Around the same time, soybeans became a popular crop among farmers. Depression-era government subsidies encouraged their cultivation, and the crop became even more widespread during World War II, when the need for soybean oil increased government incentives. Today, soybeans and corn are the most prominent crops on the landscape.

In 1914, the Bank of Marion was established. The same year, the organization constructed a new bank building in Marion. The simple building was typical of bank buildings constructed in small towns during this era. The establishment served the other merchants and farmers in the town. It is a good example of classically inspired bank architecture, and is part of the Marion Historic District.

By the end of the first quarter of the twentieth century, Marion suffered a period of decline. References generally point to the growth and prominence of Crisfield and Princess Anne as reasons for Marion's cessation of growth. Today, Marion has a high level of unemployment. Many residents commute to jobs in Salisbury.

Architectural Resources in Marion

The earliest residences in Marion date from the middle of the nineteenth century. The houses are primarily modest, typical vernacular farmhouses, often two stories in height with narrow facades. All of the earliest houses have been abandoned and many are in danger of collapse.

Vernacular farmhouses continued to be built in Marion into the first quarter of the twentieth century. I-houses were commonly constructed in the early years of the twentieth century. Many have steeply pitched cross gables superimposed onto the traditional I-house form. Farmhouses of this form are common throughout Maryland. Another prevalent form is a two-story folk Victorian form with a projecting, two-story, three-bay form extending from the façade. This form is commonly seen throughout the Chesapeake Bay area, most notably in Talbot and Somerset Counties. In some cases, the families have moved from the original farmhouses into trailer homes located directly next to the older home. Those that continue to function as residences have been substantially altered.

The majority of buildings more than 50 year of age in Marion date to the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Houses on smaller lots were the residences of those involved with the commercial activities of the town, such as banking. The houses located further from the center of town are generally larger farmhouses. The larger agricultural plots of land that contain these farmhouses generally lack agricultural buildings or outbuildings associated with agricultural practices. In a few cases, farmsteads contain poultry houses of recent construction dates.

Residences on a small segment of Charles Cannon Road are vernacular interpretations of styles and forms more commonly

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associated with streetcar suburbs of the early twentieth centuries. Some of these include Folk Victorian residences and American Foursquares. These are all on small parcels of land.

The residences which date from the 1930s and 40s are primarily modest cottages, most with enclosed porches. Trailers were placed throughout residential parcels in Marion during the 1960s and 70s. Today, small ranch houses constructed from the 1980s through the present day are prevalent and comprise much of the residential building stock in the vicinity. Other new residences are larger vacation homes along the Big Annessex River.

Six churches are in the vicinity of Marion. Four are modest frame chapels in the more agrarian portions of the APE. One is a larger brick Gothic Revival church. The Marion Baptist Church is the largest, and at one time perhaps the most impressive building in the town. It is a large brick building with characteristics of the Colonial Revival style, including an impressive portico. All are typical examples of sacred architecture found in the Mid-Atlantic.

The commercial architecture of Marion is typical of what is found in small communities throughout Maryland. There are two, small bank buildings and several small shops. The majority of the buildings have been altered, and approximately 35 percent are vacant and abandoned. Two rail-related buildings are in Marion, a freight station and a passenger station. Both buildings have been altered for use as retail space.

Determination of Eligibility

The property was evaluated for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. According to the National Register:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. that are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or
- C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

The Mabel Brittingham House is a skillful example of the Queen Anne style of architecture. While it does not display all of the character-defining features of the style that are often found in buildings in more urban or suburban locales, it is an accomplished vernacular interpretation. It is also one of the finest examples of the style on the lower Eastern shore. The building retains original decorative wood shingles in the apex of the gable; diamond-pane, multi-colored glass windows; a picturesque, steeply pitched roof with prominent chimneys, and porch with classically inspired columns. Research indicates that the building was constructed in 1905. Although the Queen Anne style of architecture had dwindled in popularity in urban and suburban locations by this time, it was typical that certain styles enjoyed longer periods of popularity in rural locations. The residence retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling. It is meticulously and sensitively maintained.

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Little is known about Mabel Brittingham. Research in state and local archives did not uncover any information about her. Property records also did not yield any information about Brittingham.

The Mabel Brittingham house is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. It is not associated with any events or people significant in the past, and therefore is not eligible under Criteria A or B. However, the property is eligible as an excellent vernacular example of the Queen Anne style of architecture. It is one of the best examples found on the lower Eastern shore, and it retains a high degree of integrity. The property was not evaluated under Criterion D.

Bibliography

Maryland's Historic Somerset. Princess Anne, Maryland: Board of Education, 1969.

Maryland Historical Trust. Maryland Inventory of Historic Property Forms and National Register of Historic Places Forms for Marion and surrounding areas of southern Maryland.

Touart, Paul Baker. Somerset; An Architectural History. Annapolis: Maryland Historical Trust and Somerset County Historical Trust, Inc., 1990.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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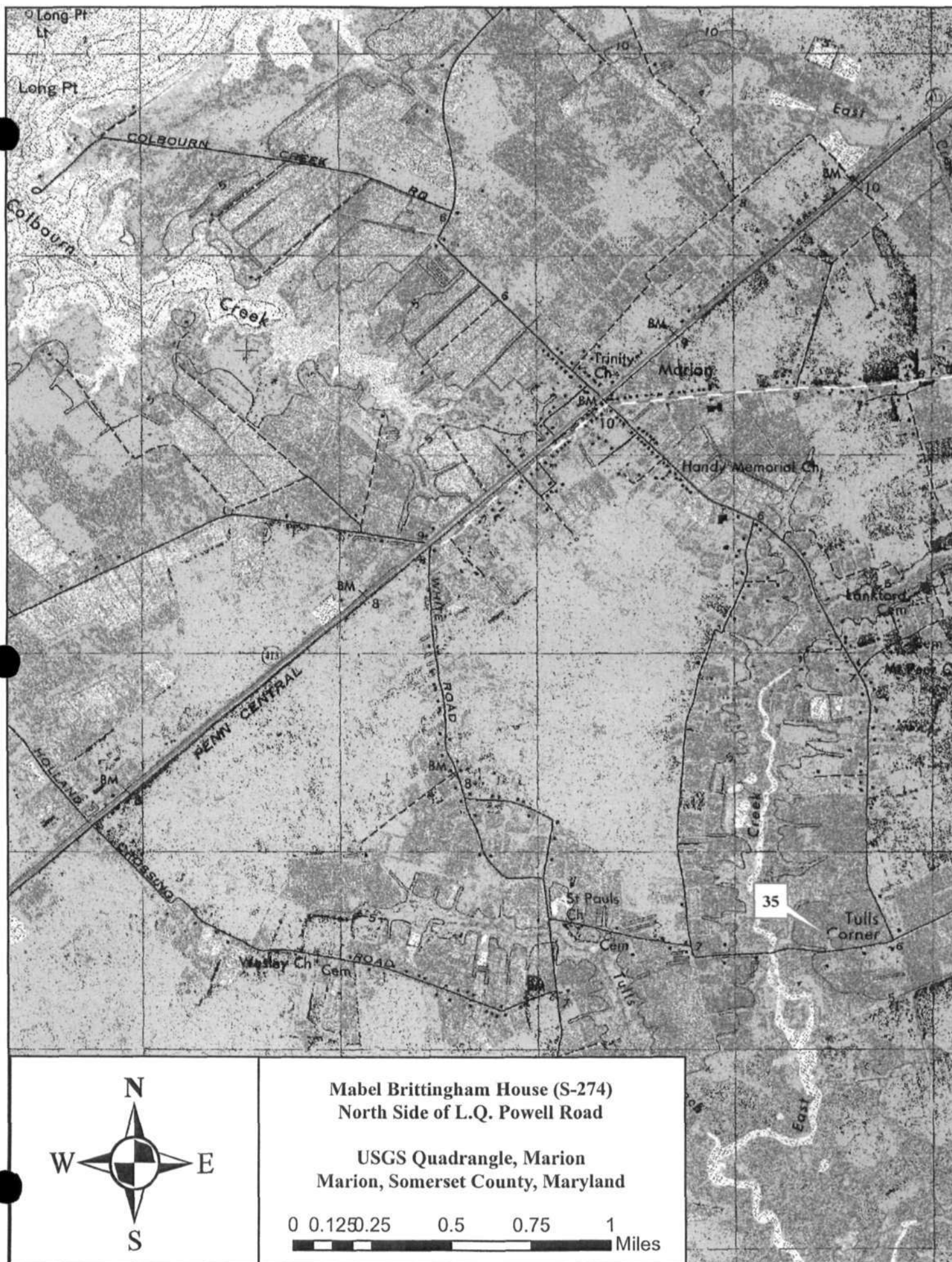
MHT Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, National Register Program

Date





ME #P# S-274

Mabel Brittingham House

Somerset County, MD

Stacey Street

March 2005

MD SHPO

Facade, taken from north side
of L.Q. Powell Rd.

1/5



MIHP# S-274

Mabel Brittingham House

Somerset County, MD

Stacey Street

March 2005

MD SHPO

Detail of front gable, facade

2/5



MD HP # 5-274

Mabel Brittingham House

Somerset County, MD

Stacey Street

march 2005

MD S#PO

west elevation

ART-2611 <No. 28 >001
410 7817 -1 N N-7 09 <042>0

3/5



MEHP# S-274

Mabel Brittingham House

Somerset County, MD

Stacey Street

March 2005

MD SHPO

North elevation

4/5

ART-2611 <NO. 27 >027
409 7817 -1 N N-7 16 <042>9



MLHP # 5-274

Mabel Brittingham House

Somerset County, MD

Stacey Street

March 2005

MD SHPO

East elevation

6/5

ART-2611 <No. 26 >026
409 7817 -1 N N-4-04 (042)8

S-274

c. 1900-1910

Mabel Brittingham House
Tulls Corner
private

The Mabel Brittingham house is one of the most accomplished Victorian dwellings in southern rural Somerset County. Irregular in plan, the raised two-story frame house is embellished with elaborate decoration within the upper gables. The upper front gable is pierced by a tripartite diamond pane sash window. Stretching across the front is a Tuscan columned front porch with an off-center gable front.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. S-274

Magi No. 2002745704

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mabel Brittingham House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number N side of L.Q. Powell Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Tulls Corner ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mabel Brittingham

street & number L.Q. Powell Road telephone no.:

city, town Marion state and zip code Md. 21838

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state Md. 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. S-274

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Mabel Brittingham House stands on the north side of L.Q. Powell Road near Tulls Corner, Somerset County, Md. The 2½-story irregular plan frame house faces south while the principal gable roof runs on a north/south axis.

The c.1900-1910 side hall plan Victorian house is supported by a raised common bond brick foundation and is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. A combination of narrow weatherboards and fishscale shingles sheaths the multi-sided structure.

The south facade is an asymmetrical elevation with the entrance located in an off-central bay of the main house. The door is glazed above the lock rail and paneled below. A single-pane sash window is located to the left (west) and right(east) of the entrance bay, and the second floor is lighted by similar windows. The upper gable is sheathed with fishscale shingles and decorated with an elaborate design of sawnwork. Centered within the gable is a tripartite window with diamond pane upper sash and single-pane lower sash. A single-story shed roof porch supported by thin Tuscan columns covers the first floor and is distinguished by an off-center front gable that is covered with fishscale shingles.

The west elevation has an off-center two-story three-sided bay which is covered by a gable roof. The window sash follow the same single pane arrangement. Attached to the lower corners of the gable roof is a series of decorative spindles, while the roof peak is embellished with the same Victorian sawnwork. Interior brick chimneys for stoves rise from the center and rear portions of the roof.

A two-story shed-roofed addition extends from the back of the main block and is lighted by two 2/2 sash windows in each door. A small window lights the attic.

The east elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a two-story single-bay section projecting from the main block in the south bay. A Victorian wooden spire rises from the roof peak. The balance of the details follow the previously described elevations.

The interior was not seen, nor are there any significant outbuildings.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-274

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

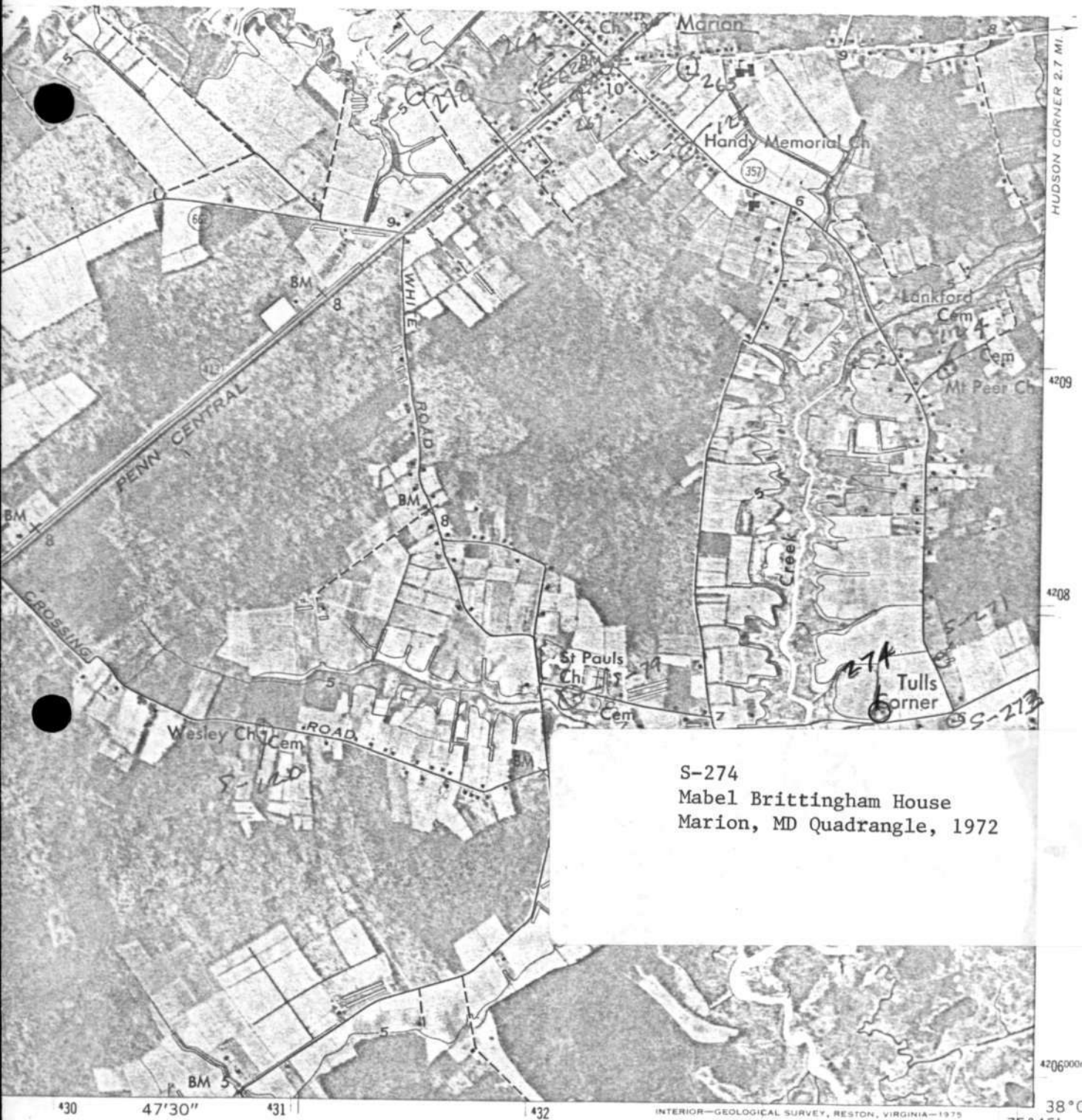
check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

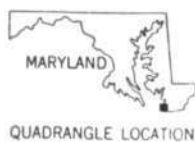
Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Mabel Brittingham House is one of the most accomplished Victorian houses in southern rural Somerset County. Irregular in plan, the raised two-story frame house is embellished with elaborate decoration within the upper gables. It appears to have been changed very little since its c. 1900-1910 construction.



S-274
Mabel Brittingham House
Marion, MD Quadrangle, 1972

1 MILE
7000 FEET
METER



INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1979
433 434 000m E 75°45'

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface _____ Light-duty road, hard or improved surface _____
Secondary highway, hard surface _____ Unimproved road _____

Trails

○ Interstate Route ○ U. S. Route ○ State Route

MARION, MD.
N3800—W7545/7.5

1972

AMS 5860 III SE—SERIES V8330



Mabel Brittingham House

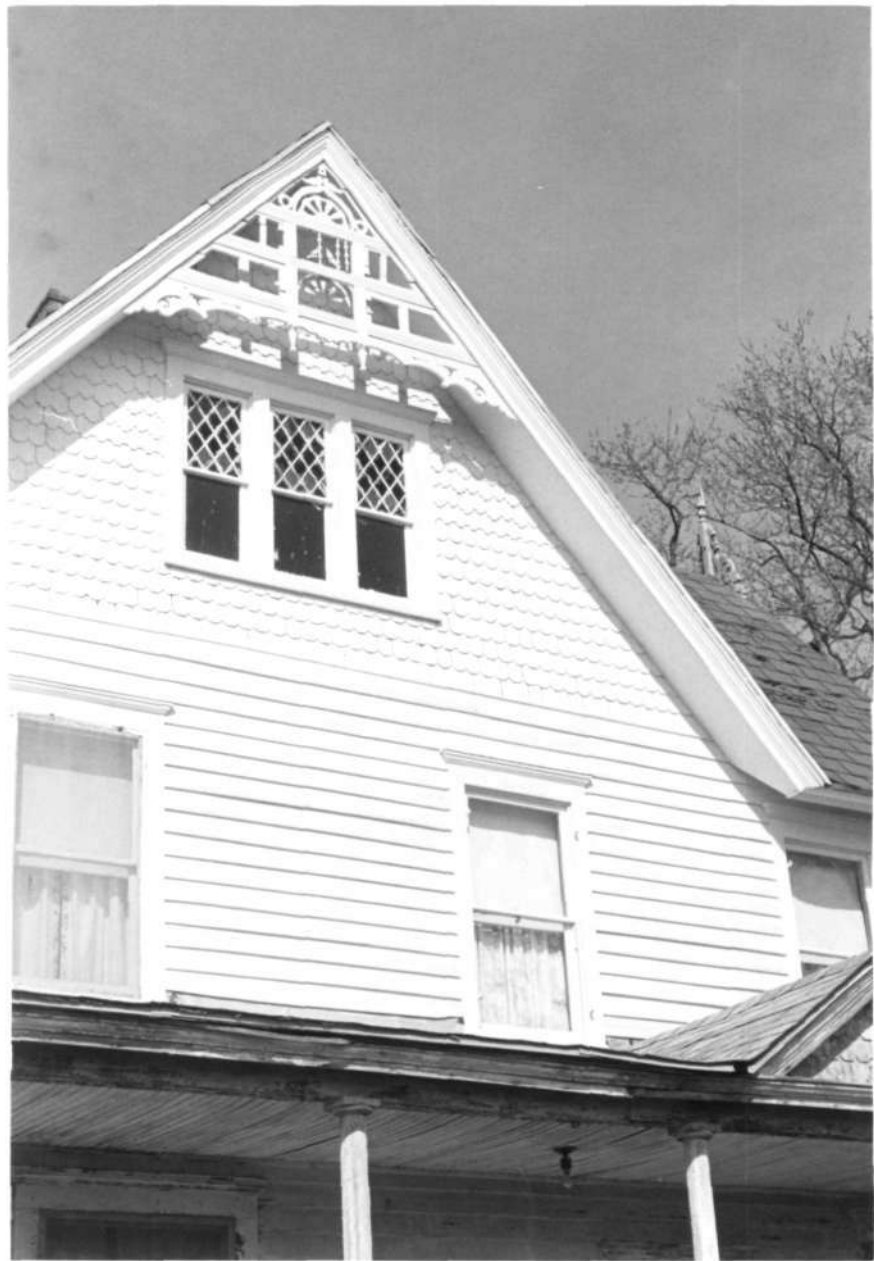
S-274

Near Tulls Corner, Somerset County

South Elevation

4/85, Photographer, Paul Touart

Neg/Md. Historical Trust



Mabel Brittingham House S-274
Near Tulls Corner, Somerset County
South Eave
4/85, Photographer, Paul Touart
Neg/Md. Historical Trust



Mabel Brittingham House S-274
Near Tulls Corner, Somerset County
South Elevation
4/85, Photographer, Paul Touart
Neg/Md. Historical Trust